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NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958.



Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
High Street,  
LEWES, Sussex.



*Newhaven Urban District Council  
and Port Health Authority.*

*With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health.*



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Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
School Hill,  
LEWES,  
Sussex.

September, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee,  
Newhaven Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for 1958 on the state of public health of the general population and the sanitary circumstances of Newhaven.

The estimated population of Newhaven for 1958 was 8,020 or ten less than the highest recorded population, 8,030 for 1957.

The adjusted birth rate for the town in 1958 was 15.54 per 1,000 population as compared with 16.4 for England and Wales for the same year.

The adjusted death rate for Newhaven was 11.47 per 1,000 population which compares favourably with 11.7 for England and Wales for the same period.

In 1958 there were no maternal deaths in Newhaven. In the last twenty three years there was only one maternal death ascribed to a Newhaven resident. Therefore, the death of a Newhaven mother in, or in consequence of childbirth, is very rare.

The chief causes of death in the year under review were heart disease (47); vascular lesions of the nervous system (17) and cancer (10) out of a total of 107 deaths.

The average age at death was 71.87.

The number of infectious diseases notified in 1958 was nineteen. None of these notified cases required hospital treatment. All made satisfactory recoveries.

During the year four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. No cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were reported. No death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in 1958.

Your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Harrison, as in former years carried out his duties as regards the sanitary circumstances and sanitary inspection of the area most efficiently and tactfully. On perusal of Section III of this Annual Report it can be seen that there was a great volume and variation of the work he performed during the year.

In conclusion I desire to express thanks to other officials for their helpfulness and courtesy and to you for your kind encouragement.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G.M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
F.R.S.I., etc.

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION I

### Statistics for the Area - 1958.

Area in Acres	1,766
Population (estimated)	8,020
Rateable value (estimated)	£88,287
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£340
Number of occupied houses	2,519

### Extracts from Vital Statistics

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>	
				<u>Crude Rates</u>	<u>Adjusted Rates</u>
Legitimate	60	55	115		
Illegitimate	5	1	6	15.09	15.54
<u>Deaths.</u>					
Including those of outside residents.	60	47	107	13.34	11.47
				<u>Rate per 1,000 live and still births.</u>	
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth.					0.00
				<u>Rate per 1,000 live births.</u>	
<u>Infantile Mortality</u> (deaths under one year of age)	4	1	5	41.32	

### POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimated population figure for mid-1958 is 8,020. The population for Newhaven for the past 10 years is given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
1949	7,592	156	92	20.60	12.15
1950	7,774	131	94	16.85	12.09
1951	7,803	123	100	15.76	12.81
1952	7,815	140	82	17.91	10.49
1953	7,832	126	148	16.47	18.89
1954	7,940	124	113	15.62	Adjusted 14.23
1955	7,980	118	123	14.79	<u>Birth</u> 15.41 <u>Death</u>
1956	7,960	135	94	16.96	<u>Rate</u> 11.81 <u>Rate</u>
1957	8,030	99	105	12.33	13.07
1958	8,020	121	107	15.09	15.54 13.34 11.47

The estimated population figures for the town for 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958 have been 7,980, 7,960, 8,030 and 8,020 and it will be seen that after several years of fluctuation the estimated population at June 1958 was 80 more than at the same time in 1954.

## Maternal Mortality

No case of maternal Mortality took place in the area during 1958.

Only one mother who was normally resident in Newhaven has died in, or in consequence of, childbirth during the past twenty-three years. In that time the maternal mortality rate for Newhaven was about one-tenth of that for England and Wales for the same period.

## Infantile Mortality

During the year 1958 five infants under one year of age died in Newhaven. This represents a rate of 41.32 per 1,000 live births as compared with 22.5 per 1,000 live births for the whole of England and Wales. This rate is considerably higher than that usually recorded for the area, but it must be remembered that when the number of infantile deaths recorded each year is so low, then a difference of one or two deaths in any one year makes a very large variation in the rate per 1,000 live births recorded for the year in question.

## Birth Rate.

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 15.09 per 1,000 population. This represents an increase of 2.76 per 1,000 compared with the rate for 1957 which was the lowest rate recorded in the district in any post-war year.

An area comparability factor of 1.03 is applicable to the birth rate in the town for 1958. This factor is supplied by the Registrar-General in order that a fair comparison may be made between the local birth rates of different districts and of England and Wales as a whole. In this case, its application gives an adjusted birth rate of 15.54. The rate for England and Wales for the same period was 16.4.

## Death Rate.

The crude rate for the year under review was 13.34 per 1,000 population, the death rate for England and Wales for the same period being 11.7 per 1,000 population. Deaths of persons from other areas who enter an institution in the district are included in the total from which the crude rate is calculated, but the area comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General for application to the crude rate gives an adjusted death rate in which allowance has been made for such deaths. The factor of 0.86 applied to the crude rate of 13.34 gives an adjusted death rate of 11.47 per 1,000 population, which compares favourably with the figure of 11.7 for England and Wales.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Heart Disease	22	25	47
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	7	10	17
Cancer	6	4	10
Circulatory disease other than mentioned elsewhere	4	2	6
Pneumonia	6	-	6
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Influenza	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	2	7
	60	47	107

The highest age at death was ..... 92 years

The lowest age at death was ..... 2 hours

The average age at death was ..... 71.87 years.

#### SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DEATH.

##### Heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system.

About one half of the total number of deaths in the area during 1958 were due to heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system. Most deaths in this group occur amongst the elderly and many of the deaths take place in a local institution.

##### Cancer.

Ten deaths due to cancer took place in Newhaven during 1958, giving a death rate of 1.25 per 1,000 population. Six of these deaths were of males and four of females. One case of cancer of the lung was recorded in a male.

##### Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system include cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral embolism and thrombosis and other cerebral lesions. A total of seventeen deaths in Newhaven was classified under this heading during 1958, seven being males and ten females. Most of these deaths occur amongst elderly persons and a good proportion of them take place in an institution in the area to which elderly and infirm people are sent from surrounding areas as well as from Newhaven district.



## SECTION II

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

#### 1. Public Health Facilities of the Local Authority.

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for Newhaven also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes, the Urban District of Seaford and the Rural District of Chailey.

One Public Health Inspector carried out duties in the Urban District of Newhaven.

#### 2. Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory, established at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, has proved of great assistance during the year.

The Laboratory has carried out for the Urban District, free of charge, the examination of various specimens submitted. This service is extremely valuable both to your Medical Officer of Health and to the medical practitioners practising in the district.

#### 3. Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which has made arrangements for the ambulance to be housed, serviced, and maintained by a local commercial garage, and for the vehicle to be driven by members of the garage staff. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade act as attendants. The area served by the ambulance includes the districts of Newhaven, Peacehaven, Telscombe, Piddinghoe, Tarring Neville and South Heighton. In the event of a further call or calls being received before the ambulance has returned from a previous journey, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other authorities in the area.

The Newhaven ambulance is not available for the transport of infectious disease cases but under the provisions of the Ambulance Scheme vehicles from adjacent ambulance stations can be called upon, if required, for the conveyance of such cases. Arrangements are in being for the disinfection of ambulances so used, together with the disinfection of bedding, clothing etc.

The East Sussex County Council provide facilities for the transport of tuberculosis patients.

#### 4. Hospitals.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ministry of Health is responsible for the provision of hospital accommodation which, in this area, was materially the same as in previous years.

#### 5. Nursing in the Home.

As in previous years, the East Sussex County Council, as empowered by Section 25 of the National Health Service Act 1946, has arranged for this service to be provided by the East Sussex County Nursing Association through the Lewes and District Nursing Association.

#### 6. Clinics.

The Minor Ailments Clinics have been held at the Schools as previously, and immunisation clinics have also been held monthly in the town.

#### 7. Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.

The East Sussex County Council deals with the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency services in respect of patients outside institutions. All institutional care is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

### SECTION III

#### Sanitary Circumstances and Sanitary Inspection of the area.

##### 1. Water Supply.

The District has two sources of water supply:-

(a) From the Newhaven, Seaford and Ouse Valley Water Company which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom; and

(b) From the British Railways' Well at Denton. This uspply is only provided for four houses and two hotels, viz. 1 to 4 Denton Terrace, The Railway and Harbour Hotels.

##### 2. Closet Accommodation.

All the premises in the district are provided with closets connected with the sewer with the following exceptions:-

###### Premises with cess-pools.

West Pier .....	2
Court Farm Road .....	10
Harbour Heights Estate .....	46
Added Area .....	279
Lewes Road .....	7

###### Premises with earth closets.

New Road .....	15
Denton Village .....	8

##### 3. Scavenging.

A weekly collection of refuse was made from all premises in the area which were within fifty yards of a reasonably accessible road. House refuse was disposed of by the Bradford Tipping System, buried daily on the Council's Refuse Tip on Denton Island. This system of disposal has proved to be satisfactory.

4. The following is a list of the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year by your Public Health Inspector:-

###### Housing.

Inspections under the Public Health Acts .....	60
Visits under the Public Health Acts .....	54
Inspections under the Housing Acts .....	64
Visits under the Housing Acts .....	97
Inspections of verminous houses .....	15
Rent Act, 1957 .....	7

###### Infectious Diseases.

Enquiries .....	6
Disinfections .....	7

###### General Sanitation.

Ditches .....	12
Drainage .....	43
Stable and piggeries .....	22
Fried fish shops .....	52



## General Sanitation (Continued)

Factories and workshops .....	33
Bakehouses .....	27
Public conveniences .....	44
Refuse collection .....	61
Refuse disposal .....	12
Rats and mice .....	56
Shops .....	17
Tents, vans and camping sites .....	73
Miscellaneous visits .....	81

## Meat and Food Inspections.

Butchers .....	62
Fishmongers .....	43
Grocers .....	48
Dairies .....	43
Ice-cream premises .....	37
Restaurants .....	53
Food Hygiene Regulations .....	33

## Summary of Work after Service of Notice.

Roofs repaired .....	1
Eavesgutter or fallpipes repaired .....	3
Dustbins .....	17
Pointing or rendering of external walls .....	1
Water closets or cisterns repaired or renewed .....	3
Drains relaid, improved or cleared .....	4
Dampness remedied .....	2
Means of ventilation improved .....	2
Windows and sashes repaired .....	6
Firegrates or flues repaired .....	4
Doors repaired or renewed .....	4
Wall plaster repaired .....	1
Accumulation of refuse removed .....	7
Dirty premises cleansed .....	2

### 5. Inspections of shops and offices.

Shops and offices were regularly inspected and, with the exception of minor items, were found to be satisfactory.

### 6. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses infested:-

Council houses .....	Nil
Other houses .....	Nil

### 7. Premises controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

(a) Clean Food Byelaws are in force, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(b) Dairies. During the year the Public Health Inspector made forty-three inspections. There are seventeen retailers in the district registered for the sale of milk.

(c) Slaughter of Animals. There are no slaughterhouses in the district. Fresh meat is obtained principally from slaughterhouses and markets in Brighton and Chailey.

There are two licenced slaughtermen in the District.

(d) Milk Supply. The premises from which milk is supplied to the District retail received special attention.

(e) Other foods. All premises where food is prepared for sale were inspected regularly, and their condition proved to be reasonably satisfactory except for some minor details which were made good on informal notice.

8. Unsound food.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unsound and were condemned and suitably disposed of:-

	Cwt.	Qrts.	Lbs.
Meat (Home killed) ... ..			15
Meat (tinned-various) ... ..			27
Fruit (tinned-various) ... ..		3	0
Vegetables (tinned-various) ..		1	6
Fish (tinned and fresh) ..			17
Milk (tinned) ... ..			5
Frozen egg ... ..			16
Vegetables (fresh) ... ..		3	7
	2	2	9

9. Factories Act, 1937.

In the Urban District of Newhaven there are eight factories on the Register in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of the above Act are enforced and forty-six in which Section 7 only is enforced.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notice	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	8	2	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	43	31	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
T O T A L	54	33	Nil	Nil



2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No.of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Sanitary Conveniences (5.7)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
T O T A L :	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

#### SECTION IV

##### Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

In all, nineteen cases of infectious disease, excluding tuberculosis, were notified in Newhaven during 1958. The details are as follows:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths
Measles	8	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
T O T A L :	19	-	-

##### Measles.

During the year under review eight cases of measles were notified in Newhaven, none of which were admitted to hospital. All cases made uneventful recoveries.

The number of cases of measles notified each year fluctuates considerably, years of heavy incidence usually alternating with years when few cases occur. When two or three years of light incidence occur, they are usually followed by a year when an abnormally large number of cases is recorded.

##### Scarlet Fever.

Six cases of scarlet fever were notified in Newhaven during the year under review. These cases were all mild and made uneventful recoveries without admission to hospital.

##### Pneumonia

Three cases of pneumonia were notified during 1958. Two of these cases were of acute primary pneumonia and one of the influenzal type. All three made satisfactory recoveries without admission to hospital.

##### Whooping Cough

Only two cases of whooping cough were notified in Newhaven during the year under review. It is therefore the fourth successive year of low incidence, as only six cases were recorded in 1955, two in 1956 and four in 1957. It is to be hoped that these low totals will be repeated in future years and will prove to be the result of the introduction by the County Council in 1954 of a combined vaccine for diphtheria and whooping cough.

SECTION V.

Tuberculosis

In 1958 four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. No new case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was reported. During the same period no death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis was reported. Details are given in the following table:-

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-

The incidence per 1,000 population of the four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1958 is 0.50.

No death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in the Urban District during 1958. The tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales for the same year was 0.1 per 1,000.







